

CAPSULE SUMMARY
BA-0402
Valley Paper Mill House
20008 Valley Mill Road
Freeland, Baltimore County
Ca. 1869
Private

The circa 1869 Gothic Revival-style dwelling known as the Valley Paper Mill House is located at 20008 Valley Mill Road in Election District Six in Baltimore County near the towns of Freeland, Middletown, and Bentley Springs. John Abrahams, who constructed the dwelling, held 80 acres of land including the second Valley Mill Paper Mill (BA-0401) from 1869 until 1883 when the property was transferred to his son William. The tract of land for the mill was originally part of a tract known as "Disappointment" or "Vaughn's Disappointment." In 1888, John W. Gore purchased the property and rebuilt the mill. It is uncertain when the mill and house properties were separated, although the mill was demolished in 1985. The dwelling is currently owned by Charles and Winifred Krantz, who purchased it in 1985.

The wood-frame dwelling is rectangular in shape with a center-gabled asphalt-shingled roof with central rounded-arch 2/2 window in the gable peak. The two-and-one-half-story building with two-story gabled ell measures four bays wide with an off-center entry. It is now clad in vinyl siding and sits on a solid stone foundation. The dwelling is detailed with overhanging eaves, a raking cornice, aluminum soffit, and two exterior end rebuilt brick chimneys. The chimney on the rear elevation of the ell is shouldered. Stylistically, the vernacular building draws on the Gothic Revival style with its front-gabled roof, wood-frame construction, and central gable peak window. The dwelling sits on a slight rise on the west side of Valley Mill Road, just to the southwest of the Valley Paper Mill Site. The property features mature trees, shrubs, and a gravel driveway. The property is additionally developed with a springhouse, smokehouse, barn, and stable.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-0402

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Valley Paper Mill House (preferred)

other Little Falls Farm (current)

2. Location

street and number 20008 Valley Mill Road ☐ not for publication

city, town Freeland ☒ vicinity

county Baltimore County

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Charles W. and Winifred T. Krantz

street and number 20008 Valley Mill Road telephone Unknown

city, town Freeland state Maryland zip code 21053-9525

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber 6877 folio 406

city, town Towson tax map 11 tax parcel 315 tax ID number 2000001166

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
1

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-0402

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Valley Paper Mill House, located between Freeland and Bentley Springs in Baltimore County, was constructed circa 1869. The wood-frame building is rectangular in shape with a center-gabled asphalt-shingled roof with central rounded-arch 2/2 window in the gable peak. The two-and-one-half-story building with two-story gabled ell measures four bays wide with an off-center entry. It is now clad in vinyl siding and sits on a solid stone foundation. The dwelling is detailed with overhanging eaves, a raking cornice, aluminum soffit, and two exterior end rebuilt brick chimneys. The chimney on the rear elevation of the ell is shouldered. Stylistically, the vernacular building draws on the Gothic Revival style with its front-gabled roof, wood-frame construction, and central gable peak window. The dwelling sits on a slight rise on the west side of Valley Mill Road, just to the southwest of the Valley Paper Mill Site (BA-0401). The property features mature trees, shrubs, and a gravel driveway. The property is additionally developed with a springhouse, smokehouse, barn, and stable.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The primary façade, facing north, measures four bays wide. The off-center entry, framed by a narrow vinyl surround, consists of a single-leaf wooden door with board-infilled transom. The elevation also features a pair of 6/6-vinyl windows with molded vinyl surrounds and full-height wooden louvered operable shutters to the west of the entry and one similar 6/6 window to the east. The elongated shutter size and aluminum infilled under-panels suggest full-height windows originally pierced the dwelling. A shed-roofed three-bay-wide porch supported by square wood posts shelters the first story. The symmetrically fenestrated second story is pierced with four evenly spaced 6/6 vinyl windows with vinyl surrounds and wooden operable louvered shutters. A wooden rounded-arch 2/2 window lights the half-story central gable peak.

The west elevation is composed of the main block and flush ell, which also sits on a rubble stone foundation. The first story of the main block is pierced with four 6/6-vinyl windows on a projecting bay window with shared vinyl surround. The first story of the ell features a single 1/1-vinyl window with vinyl surround and a double-leaf sliding plate-glass door with vinyl surround. A wood-post-supported porch with a shed roof shelters the first story of the ell. The second story of the main block and ell features five evenly spaced 6/6-vinyl windows with vinyl surrounds and sills. The main block also features a gable-peak fixed single-light vinyl window with vinyl surround and sill.

The south, or rear, elevation of the ell features a rebuilt shouldered American bond brick chimney, which is flanked by single-light fixed vinyl windows. A 6/1-wooden one-light window lights the stone foundation of the ell, which is built into the hill. The rear of the main block is pierced on the first story with a single-leaf-paneled door sheltered by a shed-roofed asphalt-shingle porch. A vinyl-6/6 window with wooden louvered shutters and vinyl surround lights the second story.

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The east elevation of the main block features an exterior end rebuilt brick stretcher bond chimney with corbeled cap. It is flanked on the first story by vinyl 6/6 windows with vinyl surrounds, infilled aluminum under-panels and elongated wooden louvered shutters. The second story features one off-center 6/6-vinyl window with vinyl surround, aluminum square-edged sill, and wood operable louvered shutters. The first story of the ell, sheltered by a porch with half-hipped asphalt-shingled roof and wood post supports, is pierced with an off-center single-leaf paneled wood door. The elevation also features a pair of 6/6-vinyl windows with molded vinyl surrounds and full-height wooden louvered operable shutters to the west of the entry and one similar 6/6 window to the east. The elongated shutter size and aluminum infilled under-panels suggest full-height windows originally pierced the dwelling. The second story features three symmetrically placed vinyl-6/6 windows with vinyl surrounds and wooden operable louvered shutters.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The interior of the building was not accessed during this phase of the survey.

OUTBUILDINGS

A circa 1860 wood frame springhouse, clad in flush vertical board siding, is located to the southwest of the dwelling. The building features a random rubble stone foundation and asphalt shingle-clad front gable roof. The façade of the structure is pierced by one single-leaf wood door and one six-light window.

The wood frame, circa 1860 smokehouse is clad in German siding and features a front gable roof clad in asphalt shingles and a random rubble stone foundation. An offset flush vertical board single-leaf wood door pierces the façade of the one-bay square building.

The circa 1900 barn, which is a wood frame structure clad in flush vertical board siding, has a side gable roof clad in asphalt shingles and a random rubble stone foundation. The three-bay-wide building is pierced by a central opening with braced flush vertical board sliding doors. A shed addition extends from the north elevation of the two-story barn.

The circa 1980 stable is a one-story, three-bay-wide structure with a side gable roof clad in asphalt shingles. The wood frame building, which is clad in plywood, features a poured concrete foundation, and two open bays on the façade.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-0402

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates 1869 ca. **Architect/Builder** Unknown

Construction dates 1869 ca.

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Although an exact date of construction for the dwelling has not been determined, historic maps, ownership history, Valley Paper Mill research, and stylistic embellishments support a circa 1869 date.¹ The Gothic Revival style dwelling known as the Valley Paper Mill House is located at 20008 Valley Mill Road in Election District Six in Baltimore County near the towns of Freeland, Middletown, and Bentley Springs. John Abrahams, who constructed the dwelling, held 80 acres of land including the second Valley Mill Paper Mill (BA-0401) from 1869 until 1883 when the property was transferred to his son William. The tract of land for the mill was originally part of a tract known as “Disappointment” or “Vaughn’s Disappointment.” In 1888, John W. Gore purchased the property and rebuilt the mill. It is uncertain when the mill and house properties were separated, although the mill was demolished in 1985. The dwelling is currently owned by Charles and Winifred Krantz, who purchased it in 1985.

The vernacular Gothic Revival-style dwelling appears to have been erected circa 1869 by Valley Paper Mill owner John Abrahams. The two-story dwelling was established near Freeland, a thriving center of trade in the 19th-century. The vernacular wood-frame dwelling was constructed in the Gothic Revival style. Reflective of this style is the steeply pitched center gable with centrally placed rounded-arch window. Although introduced to the United States from England in the 1830s by architect Alexander Jackson Davis, Andrew Jackson Downing (1815-1852), a landscape architect and promoter of the also popular cottage residence and Carpenter Gothic style, Downing’s *Victorian Cottage Residences*, published numerous times between 1842 and 1873, touted the advantages of the inexpensive, detached dwelling. He popularized the Gothic Revival during the last half of the 19th century as a reaction against Classicism. He claimed that the English cottage style was “so generally admired for the picturesqueness evinced in its tall gables ornamented by handsome verge-boards and finials...showing how the genius of pointed or Gothic architecture may be chastened or molded into forms for domestic habitations.”² Wood frame dwellings with horizontal cladding dominated the Carpenter Gothic Revival style, while stone construction remained popular in the vernacular buildings and high style dwellings. According to Downing, the setting for cottage residences was particularly important. In keeping with this

¹ The building is denoted on Hopkins’ 1877 Atlas of Baltimore County. The advertisement section of the atlas states that J. Abrahams purchased the eighty-acre mill property in 1869.

² Andrew Jackson Downing, *Victorian Cottage Residences*, (New York, NY: Dover Publications, Inc., 1981), p. 42.

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aspect of the style, the rural dwelling is set on a slight rise with mature trees and shrubs along the west side of Valley Mill Road, near Freeland. The Little Falls, which was used to power the mill, runs through the property.

In 1869, John Abrahams purchased the eighty-acre Valley Paper Mill (BA 0401) property, on which according to historic maps and property ownership, it appears he built the dwelling. Peter Kroh originally owned the wood-frame Valley Paper Mill in 1823 when it was worth \$400. It was later owned by Joseph Klatfelter and Jacob Krout before being sold to Jarrett Schauk in 1833. Schauk's mill burned in February of 1851 and was rebuilt by A.S. Knight circa 1860.³ By 1869, the property was owned by John Abrahams and was sold to his son William Abrahams in 1881. John Gore purchased the mill property in 1883 and rebuilt the mill in 1888. It was then owned by Joseph Young in 1893 and was sold twenty-six years later to Bentley Paper Mills, Inc, which in 1928 produced bogus paper, paper towels, and toilet paper. Successive owners included Ernest Young, Henry Williamson, the Freeland Paper Company and the Resolute Paper Product Corporation of New York. Later 20th century owners of the Valley Paper Mill House and included Monroe Dell, who purchased the 85-acre parcel, house and mill in 1959, as well as Joseph O'Neill. The mill was demolished in 1985 when the current owners Charles and Winifred Krantz purchased the twenty-five acres of the property.

Freeland is located in the picturesque Sixth Election District in the northwest corner of Baltimore County. A rugged landscape and fertile valleys, near one of the wealthiest areas of the county marked the agricultural district. In the latter part of the 19th century, the district had an area of 38.05 square miles and a population of 2,235 by 1870. It is bounded on the north by Pennsylvania, the south by the Fifth District, the east by the Seventh district, and the west by Carroll County. Arable fields for plantings of wheat, corn, oats, and fruits, located in the numerous valleys, supported the district. In addition, the waterpower of the Gunpowder Falls and its tributaries supported numerous farms and mills throughout the district. The small village of Freeland, located twenty-eight miles from Baltimore and three miles south of the Pennsylvania line, served as a station for the Northern Central Railroad. In addition, nearby Bentley Springs, just off the York Road turnpike, Bentley Springs was a popular summer resort, located twenty-five miles outside Baltimore City. The resort was settled around the nearby springs, which flowed from the nearby hillsides-- a popular medicinal and relaxation pastime in America. The spring water was bottled and sold in Baltimore. Charles W. Bentley developed the resort town.

³ John W. McGrain, *From Pig Iron to Cotton Duck: A History of Manufacturing Villages in Baltimore County*: Towson, MD Baltimore County Public Library, 1985, p. 299-300.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-0402

- Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland*. Philadelphia, PA: G.M. Hopkins, 1877.
Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel, *A History of Baltimore County*. Towson, MD Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.
Carley, Rachel. *The Visual Dictionary of American Domestic Architecture*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1994.
Maryland Historical Trust Vertical Files and Inventory.
McGrain, John W. *From Pig Iron to Cotton Duck: A History of Manufacturing Villages in Baltimore County*. Towson, MD Baltimore County Public Library, Vol.1, 1985.
Scharf, Thomas J. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men*. Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	25.60 Acres	
Acreage of historical setting	85 Acres	
Quadrangle name	New Freedom	Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Valley Paper Mill House in Baltimore County, near Freeland, has been historically associated with the property at 20008 Valley Mill Road as noted on Tax Map 11, Parcel 315 and recorded in deed Liber 6877, Folio 406 since its construction circa 1869.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	J. Bunting and A. Didden, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Traceries, Inc.	date	March 26, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street, NW	telephone	(202)393-1199
city or town	Washington, DC	state	

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600



BA-0402

Valley paper mill House

20008 Valley mill Road

Baltimore County, MD

Traceries

3/01, MD SHPO

Dwelling, North elevation, view looking South

Photo 1 of 6



BA-0402

VALLEY PAPER MILL HOUSE

20008 VALLEY MILL ROAD

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

TRACERIES

3/2001

MD SHPO

DWELLING, SOUTHWEST CORNER, LOOKING NORTHEAST



BA-0402
valley paper mill House
20008 Valley Mill Road
Baltimore County, MD
Traceries

3/01, MD SHPO
Dwelling, southeast corner, view looking Northwest

photo 3 of 6



BA-0402

Valley Paper Mill House
20008 Valley Mill Road
Baltimore County, MD
Traceries

3/01, MD SHPO
dwelling, East elevation, view looking West
photo 4 of 6



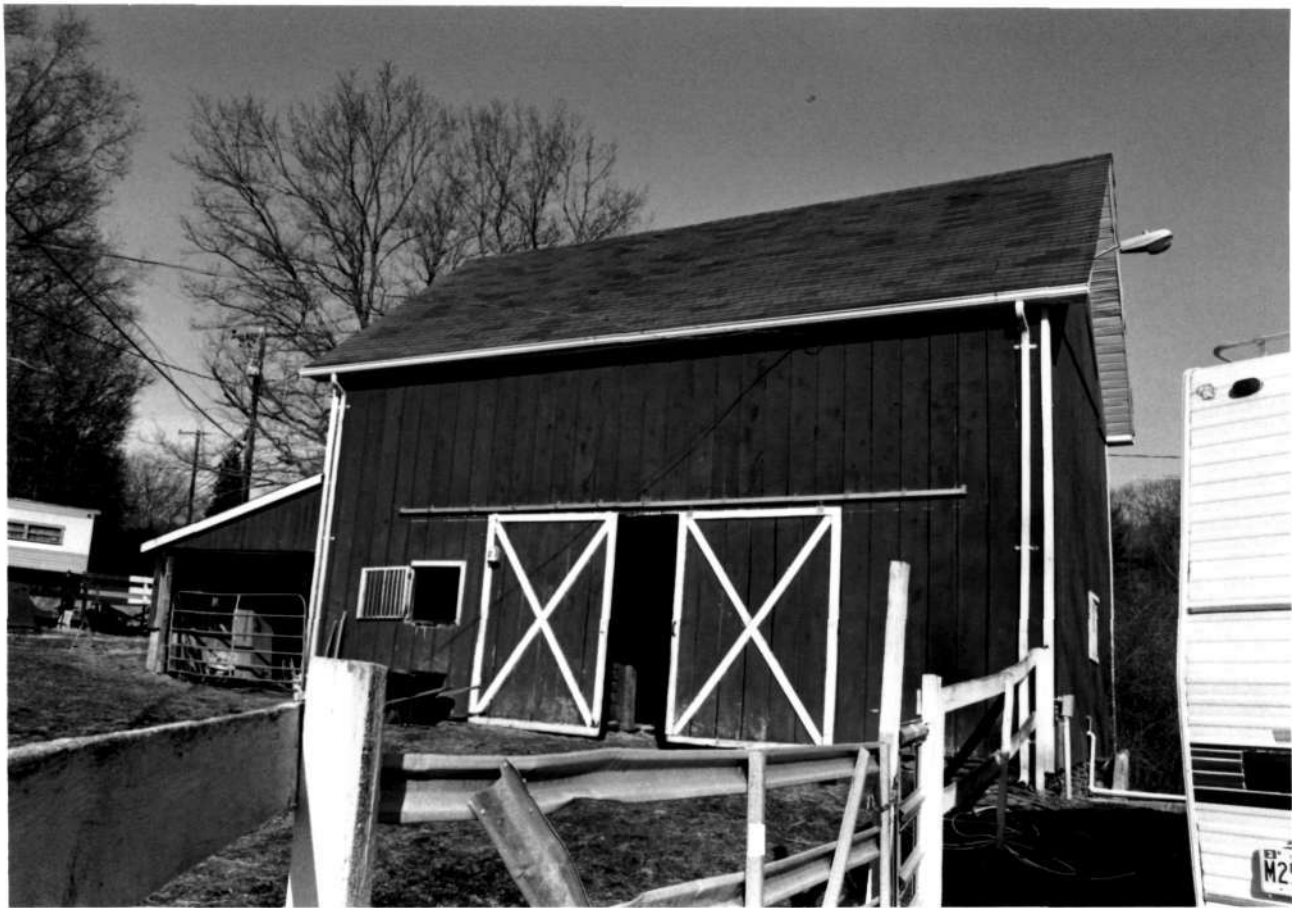
BA-0402
Valley Paper Mill House
20008 Valley Mill Road
Baltimore County, MD
Traceries

3/01

MD SHPO

SPRING HOUSE, LOOKING SOUTHWEST

Photo 5 of 6



BA-0402

VALLEY PARK MILL HOUSE

20008 VALLEY MILL ROAD

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND
TRACERIES

3/2001

MD SHPO

BARN, LOOKING NORTHEAST

BA-402

VALLEY PAPER MILL HOUSE - Before 1877 - 20008 Valley Mill Road, just SW of Site No. BA 401. Frame, two-story, cross-gabled Victorian house of clapboard, painted white. Shown in 1877 atlas as J. Abraham's farm. Former Owner: Monroe B. Dell.